Case No. 2022-1750

## **AAH**

(Appellant)

v.

Secretary-General of the United Nations
(Respondent)

ORDER No. 504 (2023)

- 1. On 21 November 2022, the United Nations Appeals Tribunal (Appeals Tribunal or UNAT) issued Order No. 492 (2022), granting AAH an interim or temporary order anonymizing his identity by substituting for his name a three-letter acronym AAH and explaining that this Order will remain in force only until the judgment on his substantive appeal (in which case it will be reviewed) or its earlier dismissal if the Appellant fails to comply with these or any further directions by the UNAT. There has been no judgment on his substantive appeal.
- 2. On 22 December 2022, AAH filed a motion with the Appeals Tribunal, requesting that his name be anonymized in all further proceedings in this matter without publicly disclosing his name and other details. He also requests anonymity in the previous orders and judgments published by the United Nations Dispute Tribunal.
- 3. AAH submits that he is under treatment for depression, gastritis and ulcerative colitis which are triggered every time he is under stress. The psychiatrist has advised that any further publication of his name related to his previous work issues will be a trigger factor to his situation. Furthermore, unless confidentiality is granted, his personal and professional reputation and standing become unsalvageable while he seeks justice.

- 4. On 19 January 2023, the Secretary-General filed his comments, noting that AAH has not demonstrated circumstances justifying anonymity. AAH's medical documents do not demonstrate that his medical condition would worsen should the proceedings remain public. He also has not made a showing that he is in greater need than any other litigant for confidentiality. There is no reason to shield appellants from the consequences of their own actions. However, the Secretary-General did not oppose the motion in order to protect the victim of AAH's misconduct who had expressed concern over the proceedings remaining public.
- 5. Article 10(9) of the Appeals Tribunal Statute (Statute) provides: "The judgements of the Appeals Tribunal shall be published, while protecting personal data, and made generally available by the Registry of the Tribunal." Further, Article 20(2) of the Appeals Tribunal Rules of Procedure (Rules) states: "The published judgements will normally include the names of the parties."
- 6. AAH's motion is denied on the basis that there is an existing Order in place (Order No. 492) temporarily anonymizing his identity until the final disposition of his appeal or earlier dismissal, neither of which has occurred. Therefore, this request is redundant and has already been decided.
- 7. As for the request for anonymity of previous Dispute Tribunal orders and judgments, it would be more appropriate to be reviewed with the final disposition of the request for anonymity.
- 8. Therefore, the Appeals Tribunal will review anonymization, including the arguments in AAH's 22 December 2022 motion and the Respondents comments in response, at the time of the final disposition of the appeal as ordered by Order No. 492.
- 9. As a result, the motion is denied.

## IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that AAH's motion is DENIED.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Secretary-General cited *Pirnea*, *Buff* and *Servas*.

Original and Authoritative Version: English

Decision dated this  $30^{th}$  day of January 2023 in Vancouver, Canada.

(Signed)

Judge Kanwaldeep Sandhu, President

Order published and entered in the Register on this  $30^{th}$  day of January 2023 in New York, United States.

(Signed)
Juliet Johnson,
Registrar